

administrative record. For these reasons, Sealaska’s brief is not permitted under Fed. R. App. P. 29.

Under Fed. R. App. P. 29, amicus briefs are to be “relevant” and “desirable” in that the brief “alerts the [court] to possible implications of the appeal.” *Neonatology Associates, P.A. v. C.I.R.*, 293 F.3d 128, 133 (3rd Cir. 2002). An amicus “as a true friend of the court” should “seek to add value to [a court’s] evaluation of the issues presented on appeal.” *Prairie Rivers Network v. Dynegy Midwest Generation, LLC*, 976 F.3d 761, 763 (7th Cir. 2020). Examples of helpful amicus would be “offering a different analytical approach to the legal issues before the court” or “identifying how other jurisdictions . . . have approached one or another aspect of a legal question.” *Id.* Amicus that are irrelevant and misleading do not “assist the judges by presenting ideas, arguments, theories, insights, facts, or data.” *Voices for Choices v. Illinois Bell Telephone Co.*, 339 F.3d 542, 545 (7th Cir. 2003).

During the preliminary injunction state of this litigation, this court allowed Sealaska – a native corporation and not a tribal sovereign – to file an amicus brief. ECF 23. At that time the State did not oppose; hoping the irrelevance of their briefing would prove harmless. However, with Sealaska’s most recent briefing, they have again tried to transform this case into something it is not by presenting misleading arguments and including irrelevant information.

Sealaska asserts that the State is attempting to harm shareholder interests and Native culture (ECF 52 at 2) but that is absolutely wrong. The State filed this lawsuit

solely against the Federal Subsistence Board (“FSB”). This lawsuit is only directed at the FSB for its failure to abide by federal laws and its actions taken beyond authority granted by Congress. ECF 1.

The State manages wildlife throughout Alaska in a manner to benefit all Alaskans, regardless of their ethnic background. Alaska Constitution, Art. 8; AS 16.05. ANILCA requires the FSB to manage the subsistence preference on federal public lands, when it is necessary to restrict harvest, for all rural residents. ANILCA §§ 801, 802, 804. Neither the State nor the FSB is allowed to discriminate based on a person’s ethnicity, and that is not an issue in this case. By inventing an alleged harm, Sealaska claims an interest in this litigation that is not supported by the facts. Furthermore, FSB has no authority except on federal public lands, so no corporate lands are at issue in this litigation. Sealaska has no interest in this case.

The State’s Complaint, and its briefing, make it clear that the objection to delegation of authority is directed at any delegation of authority by FSB to anyone outside of a federal land management agency. ECF 1, ¶¶ 1, 29; ECF 49 at 33-34. There are no implications, directly or indirectly, regarding Sealaska’s corporate interests..

The State recognizes and supports Sealaska’s interest in preserving art and culture. ECF 52 at 4-5. That is irrelevant in answering the questions before this court: whether FSB acted within its statutory authority and complied with Congressional directives.

In addition, Sealaska improperly seeks to include irrelevant documents that are not part of the administrative record. ECF 51-3, a bill that never became law, and ECF 51-4,

Sealaska Heritage Institute paper on sharing food. “Judicial review of an agency decision is limited to ‘the administrative record already in existence, not some new record made initially in the reviewing court.’” ECF 43 at 3, citing *Ctr. For Bio. Diversity v. Wolf*, 447 F.Supp.3d 965, 973 (D. Ariz. 2020) (quoting *Camp v. Pitts*, 411 U.S. 138, 142 (1973)).

For all of these reasons, Sealaska does not meet the minimum requirements of Rule 29 for filing an amicus brief.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 5, 2021, I caused the foregoing document to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will serve all counsel of record.

/s/ Hannah B. Pothast

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